United Nations A/C.3/53/SR.38

General Assembly
Fifty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 November 1998

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 38th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 6 November 1998, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hachani ..... (Tunisia)

Contents

Agenda item 110: Human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

98-82189 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 110: Human rights questions (*continued*) (A/53/3, 58, 74, 75, A/53/77–S/1998/171, A/53/79, A/53/80, A/53/94–S/1998/309, A/53/99–S/1998/344, A/53/131–S/1998/435, A/53/165–S/1998/601, A/53/167, A/53/203, A/53/205–S/1998/711, A/53/214, A/53/215, A/53/225–S/1998/747, A/53/343, 404, 425, 489, 493, 494, A/53/497–S/1998/951 and A/53/557; A/C.3/53/4, 5, 7, 9, 12 and A/C.3/53/13)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*) (A/53/72–S/1998/156, A/53/81–S/1998/225, A/53/82–S/1998/229, A/53/83–S/1998/230, A/53/86–S/1998/240, A/53/89–S/1998/250, A/53/93–S/1998/291, A/53/95–S/1998/311, A/53/98–S/1998/335, A/53/113–S/1998/345, A/53/115–S/1998/365, A/53/268, 279, 284, 293 and Add.1, 304, 309, 313, 324, 337, 400 and 501; A/C.3/53/6; A/C.3/53/L.5)

(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives (*continued*) (A/53/84–S/1998/234, A/53/114, A/53/120, A/53/182–S/1998/669, A/53/188, 322, 355, 364–367, 402, 423, 433, 490, 504, 530, 537, 539 and 563; A/C.3/53/3 and 8)

(e) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (*continued*) (A/53/36)

1. **Mr. Carranza** (Guatemala) said that there were positive developments in the situation of human rights in Guatemala, as recognized in the reports of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). The overall improvement was due to the recommendations made by the Commission on Human Rights, as well as to the cooperation provided to the Government by United Nations bodies and programmes. In addition, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Centre for Human Rights had cooperated in the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening regional agreements and mechanisms, including the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights. State institutions' capacity for action had been enhanced, within a framework of growing professionalism and efficiency, thereby helping Guatemala to make progress in ensuring the enjoyment of human rights by all its citizens.

2. The primary aim had been to strengthen the rule of law and ensure the enjoyment of human rights and democracy, by amending the Constitution and other legislation. Such measures included the elimination of paramilitary groups and the demobilization of the so-called Civilian Self-Defence Patrols. In 1997, the Guatemalan Army had initiated a restructuring plan as part of the 1997 plan for transition to peace in accordance with the Peace Agreements.

3. During the past decade, hopes had been raised for democratic coexistence and the protection of human rights in Guatemala, given the connection between democracy, development and respect for human rights. For that reason, his Government believed in the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development, and called on the High Commissioner to continue taking measures for the promotion, protection and realization of the right to development through the United Nations agencies working in the field of development.

4. **Mr. Paulauskas** (Lithuania), reviewing what his country had done to ensure the implementation of international human rights standards at the national level, said that during the past five years it had become a party to five of the six core United Nations human rights treaties and that it expected to deposit shortly the instrument of ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. All those international obligations had been incorporated into Lithuania's domestic legal system without any reservation. Moreover, as a member of the Council of Europe, Lithuania fully adhered to the human rights norms established by the Council's human rights treaty system. International norms incorporated into Lithuania's legal system took precedence over domestic provisions in cases where that latter provided weaker protection for the same rights and freedoms. A planned reform of the legal system would ensure an ongoing review of national implementation of international human rights standards.

5. As a member of the United Nations and several regional bodies, Lithuania fell under the scrutiny of the universal and regional human rights-monitoring systems, which greatly facilitated the development and improvement of the national legal system. Despite its burdensome reporting duties, the Government intended to submit national reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies without undue delay. Lithuania's initial reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child had already been submitted and were pending before the respective committees. The credibility of the United Nations human rights monitoring system must not be undermined by existing

serious difficulties, such as the backlog in the examination of reports.

6. His delegation was satisfied that the main reasons for the concern of the Human Rights Committee during its consideration of Lithuania's initial report had been insufficient implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, due to incomplete reforms or lack of funds. With the legal and economic systems developing rapidly, those insufficiencies could be overcome in the near future.

7. In order to ensure the equal rights of women and their equal opportunities to participate in political, social, economic and cultural life, the Government had approved a Lithuanian women's advancement programme, developed jointly by governmental and non-governmental organizations. The programme was targeted at such essential areas as protection of women's rights, women in politics and administration, women's health, family planning and women and environmental protection. Additional measures, including the creation of women crisis centres, were being taken to develop prevention and assistance to women victims of violence and forced prostitution.

8. Institutional assistance was provided to children who suffered physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Psychological-counselling agencies were being set up, appropriate specialists were being trained to work with abused children, and telephone help lines were being established. Intensive training and education programmes in the field of human rights for law-enforcement officials to ensure their observance of the Covenant were also taking place. Generous assistance that had facilitated the reform process had been provided by the Nordic countries, the Poland Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy (PHARE) programme and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

9. **Mr. Shen Guofang** (China) said that economic globalization had aggravated the economic difficulties of many developing countries. More than 1 billion people in the world lived below the poverty line, suffering from disease and deprivation. That posed serious obstacles to the universal exercise of basic human rights. Moreover, certain countries or groups of countries had arbitrarily imposed sanctions on developing countries and even threatened them with the use of force. Such a practice constituted a serious violation of human rights. The international community should resolve disputes through peaceful means on the basis of the Charter of the United Nations and the five principles of peaceful coexistence. To eradicate poverty and backwardness, full recognition should be given to the importance of the right to subsistence and the right to development.

10. His delegation had participated in the working group established by the Commission on Human Rights to draft the declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. As a result of compromise, the draft declaration, although not ideal, was nonetheless acceptable to all the parties that had participated in that work. In his delegation's view, that document established a framework for individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in human rights activities.

11. Differences in the treatment of human rights issues often boiled down to whether an effort was being made to find common ground or rather to accentuate differences, and whether it was dialogue or confrontation that was being sought. Those contrasting attitudes reflected two fundamentally different approaches that had long existed in the area of international human rights. The end of the cold war had undoubtedly laid important foundations for the advancement of the global cause of human rights into the new century. All countries now acknowledged that no country in the world had a perfect human rights record and that all had the obligation to protect and promote human rights. Some countries that often criticized other countries for human rights violations had their own human rights problems, and they should refrain from complacency. In the interests of common efforts for the promotion of human rights, all countries should endeavour to enhance exchanges, promote understanding and reduce differences on the basis of equality and mutual respect so that confrontation would give way to dialogue and conflict would be replaced by cooperation. That and that alone was the right approach to protect and promote human rights.

12. **Mr. Rim Yong Chol** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the world had witnessed no change in the field of human rights over the past half century except that the East-West confrontation had changed into the North-South dispute. The way of thinking rooted in the cold-war era still remained in addressing human rights issues. Today's reality was such that human rights were being extremely politicized and used as a tool for interfering in the internal affairs of others, in attempts to give priority to geopolitical and economic interests and to impose ideas on other countries in addressing human rights situations in individual countries.

13. Some branded those countries which were disobedient as being in violation of human rights and forced them to

change their political and economic system, while keeping quiet about human rights issues in their allied States; worse still, they put pressure on them by resorting to military force and economic blockades. The victims were either States which maintained an independent stance, or developing countries with their own socio-political systems. Countries in that category were being selected as being in violation of human rights merely because of which countries they were and what policies they were pursuing, and not because of any acts they may have committed. Unless that way of addressing human rights was abandoned, deliberations on human rights would result only in mistrust between States, as evidenced in the current tense state of international relations.

14. In order to contribute to the protection and promotion of human rights, his delegation wished to make several suggestions. Firstly, human rights issues should be dealt with in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Behaviour that infringed on the sovereignty of others should be refrained from, as should using human rights as a tool for changing the socio-economic situation in other sovereign States. Secondly, impartiality should be preserved in the interpretation and implementation of the human rights conventions. The lack of impartiality in addressing human rights situations in individual countries created a double standard, with some countries interpreting the conventions in order to achieve their own aims and applying them selectively to those States not to their liking. To eliminate such behaviour, it was imperative to have clear guidelines in the interpretation and implementation of the conventions. Thirdly, human rights forums within the United Nations system should become places that were conducive to practical dialogue for the protection and promotion of human rights. A mode of addressing human rights should be established that was in keeping with the aims of the Charter.

15. In September 1998 his country had celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. It was a clear manifestation that the Government, a genuine people's power and socialist system of its own style centred upon popular masses, had been enjoying the unqualified support of the entire people. The 50 years of its existence had marked an arduous struggle for safeguarding national sovereignty and realizing the independence of the working masses. Today, the people of the Republic enjoyed not only political rights but also economic, social and cultural rights which exceeded the standards required by the human rights covenants.

16. **Mr. Arda** (Turkey) said that the role of the State had changed a great deal in the past 50 years. New and effective actors had emerged in society, and every country was trying to reduce the role of central government. The time had come to define the responsibilities of non-State actors in the protection and promotion of human rights. The report to be submitted to the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on that issue would facilitate consideration of alternative approaches to human rights.

17. In the next biennial budget, the necessary funds should be allocated for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Taking into account only the services expected from the Office for treaty bodies and special rapporteurs, it was clear that redistribution of funds from the new budget was a must. On the other hand, the nature of their work required minimal dependency on extrabudgetary funds: human rights should remain a cross-cutting aspect of every United Nations activity, and that included the High Commissioner's efforts to promote the right to development. Moreover, human rights had direct relevance for the maintenance of peace and security.

18. While all violations of human rights by States, groups or individuals needed to be thoroughly investigated, and no shortcomings should be tolerated by national institutions or by the international community, allegations concerning human rights violations in other countries should not be used as material for domestic political consumption or exploited for hidden agendas.

19. In Turkey, human rights education was a part of the curriculum of the new eight-year free and compulsory primary education. A high-level interministerial body constantly monitored and took decisions on human rights issues, while non-governmental human rights organizations participated in its meetings.

20. His delegation wished to express its sincere disappointment with regard to the allegations contained in the statement made on behalf of the European Union. Turkey had understood that the European Union was closely monitoring the human rights situation in Turkey, but that seemed not to be the case. Turkey cooperated closely not only with United Nations human rights mechanisms, but also with the Council of Europe. As for the United Nations human rights system, in 1998 Turkey had invited a special rapporteur and a working group to visit, and attached great importance to a constructive dialogue with the thematic rapporteurs.

21. **Mr. Sadiq** (Sudan) said that the Sudan attached great importance to the protection and promotion of human rights and to national measures aimed at ensuring the participation of all individuals in public life. To that end, parliamentary and presidential elections had been held in 1996 in the presence of international and regional observers, including

representatives of the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the League of Arab States. In March 1998, following a popular referendum, Parliament had adopted a new Constitution which would open the way for the establishment of democratic parties from 1999.

22. It was regrettable that certain States which took it upon themselves to defend human rights throughout the world were themselves guilty of gross human rights violations. The United States was to be deplored for its recent destruction of a Sudanese pharmaceuticals factory built with the use of scarce resources for the treatment both of Sudan's sick and those of neighbouring countries. It was hard to imagine a greater human rights violation than depriving the Sudanese people of access to even the most basic health services. The imposition of sanctions on the Sudan by the United States constituted a further human rights violation which had been rejected by the General Assembly on a number of occasions.

23. The Secretary-General had highlighted the negative impact of the sanctions on the Sudan in his report on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/53/293), demonstrating that the ban on imports of equipment and spare parts had severely affected agriculture and the transport of relief to the southern part of the Sudan.

24. The 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had linked all human rights, affirming that they could not be approached in a selective manner. The Vienna Conference had also emphasized that sanctions should not be used as a political weapon. The imposition of unilateral sanctions seriously infringed the rights of the people of the Sudan, particularly their rights to development and to a life of dignity.

25. The Government wished to reaffirm its commitment to full cooperation with United Nations agencies, particularly the Commission on Human Rights, and with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan and all other United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights. The Sudan would spare no effort to facilitate their work in order to ensure that all Sudanese citizens benefited from peace and stability.

26. There was a need to ensure that States approached human rights in a comprehensive manner, refraining from selectivity and the application of double standards. The international community should do more to prevent States from using human rights as a political weapon in order to foist their own agenda on vulnerable States, in contravention of the Charter.

27. No State was innocent when it came to human rights abuses, but every State had a duty to seek to guarantee its citizens the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Efforts should be made to balance the need for universal human rights with that for avoiding the imposition of particular value systems or cultural concepts on other States. It was regrettable that certain States continued to use human rights for political purposes, seeking to undermine the national independence and development of States such as the Sudan.

28. **Ms. Al-Hamami** (Yemen) said that Yemen's Parliament had its own human rights committee which was responsible for examining legislative proposals made by the Government in the area of human rights and for monitoring the work of government agencies to ensure compliance with relevant international agreements to which Yemen was a party. The Prime Minister of Yemen presided over a second, recently established human rights committee whose mandate was to ensure the implementation of the Government's human rights policies. The committee had sponsored a series of awareness-raising activities, including workshops involving educational, academic, press and women's organizations, with a view to integrating a human rights approach into teaching methodology and enhancing awareness of the issue.

29. There were several non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues in Yemen, including a Yemeni human rights defence organization operating at the local, regional and international levels, and a documentation and welfare centre. Other institutions included an institute for democratic development, a national council for women and a committee for the defence of public freedoms.

30. The Commission on Human Rights had provided evidence at its fifty-fourth session of the progress made by Yemen in the area of human rights, and had decided that it would no longer give consideration to the human rights situation in Yemen.

31. Without implying that Yemen was a model for States in the area of human rights, she simply wished to state that Yemen had learned from its mistakes and would continue to develop in cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner, which were assisting Yemen's judiciary and police force in the provision of services based on human rights principles. The relevant agencies were free to send representatives to see at first hand what Yemen had achieved in that area.

32. Democracy and the right to development were an integral part of human rights, and the transition to democracy in Yemen was proceeding apace, in accordance with

international agreements and with its culture, religious values and economic development.

33. Yemen hoped that the international community would address the issues of human rights and democracy in a comprehensive manner, demonstrating transparency and impartiality, eschewing the application of double standards and taking account of the historical, cultural and national characteristics of States and peoples.

34. Yemen appreciated the assistance it had received from the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, and supported calls for additional funds for her Office, which offered an invaluable service in protecting human rights throughout the world.

35. **Mr. Kayinamura** (Rwanda) deplored the fact that gross human rights violations, including genocide, continued to plague mankind. The adoption of international instruments must be supported by action aimed at preventing the recurrence of such tragedies anywhere in the world. Public statements by leaders or from any other source which incited a population to rise and exterminate a section of its own citizens must be condemned. Accordingly, his delegation called on the international community to condemn recent broadcasts on radio and television by President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo inciting the population to exterminate Congolese citizens of Rwandan origin. Lists of those killed, arrested or missing after those broadcasts had been made were annexed to the text of the current statement.

36. In an effort to prevent and punish the crime of genocide, an organic law had been passed in Rwanda. His Government had also been striving to introduce other policies to promote respect for human rights, the rule of law and national reconciliation. Some of those measures had been described by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights in his report (A/53/402), and included the abolition of ethnic identity cards, the formation of a non-sectarian parliament and a government of national unity, and the reintegration of Rwandan returnees.

37. His Government faced the problem of dealing with more than 100,000 prisoners, who had been accused of involvement in the genocide campaign which had resulted in the killing of over one million Rwandans between April and July 1994; accordingly, it was strengthening the judiciary, despite meagre resources, and welcomed the support it had received from Governments and other institutions.

38. His Government had set the following priorities: establishment of a national human rights commission, provided with the necessary resources; training of national human rights monitors; establishment of human rights-education programmes; initiation of a human rights public awareness campaign; and establishment of a national centre for human rights. It would need support from the international community in attaining those objectives.

39. His delegation took exception to the false allegations made against his Government by the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who had labelled Rwanda as a terrorist State and accused it of committing atrocities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo which had in fact been committed by its own Government and people. Armed groups which had found a haven in the vast jungle of the Democratic Republic of the Congo were causing havoc in neighbouring countries. His delegation challenged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to disprove the statements made by its leadership on radio and television, and called on the international community to go to the rescue of the persons whom that Government claimed to be protecting.

40. **Ms. Pulido** (Venezuela) said that respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms had always been one of the basic principles of Venezuela's domestic and foreign policy. Venezuela consistently supported initiatives to strengthen the international human rights regime; it had ratified the basic human rights instruments and was pursuing a policy of transparency and fruitful dialogue. National experience had confirmed its belief in the democratic system as a means of achieving a more just society, which ensured respect for the human rights of each citizen.

41. Her Government was working with non-governmental organizations to prepare for the implementation of human rights programmes, and in 1997, a programme of work had been adopted for the formulation of a national human rights agenda. The main purpose was to formulate short-, medium- and long-term policies in accordance with the basic human rights instruments and domestic legislation, identifying precise objectives and the action necessary to achieve them. All sectors of society had participated in the preparation of the agenda, which would be presented on 10 December 1998.

42. In 1997, Venezuela had established a national human rights commission, which was responsible for the planning and coordination of human rights policies and programmes and for liaison between the State and civil society.

43. A number of legislative and administrative measures had been adopted, including structural and legal reform of the judicial and penitentiary system. The new code of criminal procedure, which would enter into force in July

1999, was designed to ensure better protection of the rights of detainees by streamlining judicial proceedings and thereby relieving prison overcrowding. Reforms included measures to improve the quality of life of prisoners, expedite trials and provide human rights education for prison personnel. A new act on suffrage and political participation had been promulgated, which strengthened the independence of the national electoral council and promoted public, student and neighbourhood participation in monitoring elections.

44. Her delegation welcomed the increasing recognition of the right to development as an integral part of human rights, as well as the recent measures adopted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other bodies and programmes of the United Nations system. Significant progress had been made at the most recent session of the Economic and Social Council. Her delegation also welcomed the designation of an independent expert by the Commission on Human Rights.

45. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action had proved to be a valuable framework for national and international efforts in the sphere of human rights. Venezuela had informed the international community of the progress made in each of the spheres covered by that document.

46. National efforts must be supported by the United Nations and the international community; it was essential to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, illiteracy and lack of access to education and health care, which undermined democracy and the full enjoyment of human rights, on the basis of the principles of solidarity and international social justice.

47. **Ms. Ammar** (Tunisia), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of the rule of law (A/53/309), said that the coordination of United Nations activities to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights could increase the effectiveness of the action of various United Nations bodies in providing assistance to States which requested it. The success of the technical assistance programme was demonstrated by the increasing number of human rights activities carried out, in over 50 developing countries and territories.

48. Tunisia welcomed the adoption of the draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, which buttressed the commitment of the international community to the strengthening of the rights of individuals. The declaration rightly emphasized the pivotal role of States, which had the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights, while respecting national laws and their obligations under relevant international treaties, so as to ensure the lasting and harmonious development of their societies.

49. With regard to the right to development, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in article 25, established the right to an adequate standard of living. The Declaration of the World Summit for Social Development stressed the need to promote all human rights, including the right to development. The report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of the decisions of the World Conference on Human Rights (A/53/372) stressed the fundamental link between democracy, development and human rights. Tunisia believed that the global concept of human rights should be reflected more fully in practice and that development assistance should be increased.

50. Tunisia's approach to human rights was multidimensional, involving institutional, social and economic reforms to support democracy and development. Individual and collective freedoms had been consolidated. Those reforms had been carried out through national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, with the support of civil society. Measures had been taken for the advancement and integration of women, and the protection of older persons and children. In October 1998, a law guaranteeing freedom of movement for Tunisian citizens had been adopted. Employment programmes were being carried out to create sources of income for all social groups and increase national solidarity in combating poverty. A national solidarity fund, financed by voluntary contributions from citizens and companies and donations from the State budget, had been established, as well as a national solidarity bank to help those excluded by the traditional banks.

51. Tunisia's approach was based on the premise that extreme poverty amounted to a denial of basic human rights, and that liberty and respect for economic and social rights should go together. States had primary responsibility for ensuring the well-being of their populations; at a time of globalization, however, consideration should be given to the repercussions of the laws of the market on human rights in the countries of the South. Globalization was liable to further marginalize poor countries; the problems linked with extreme poverty, deterioration of the environment, international debt, discrimination against women, and armed conflicts, were all major obstacles to the enjoyment of human rights. Calls for respect for human rights and United

Nations human rights programmes would gain in impact and credibility if there were more international solidarity in terms of development assistance, partnership and transfer of technology.

52. **Mr. Linati-Bosch** (Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta) said that the Sovereign Military Order of Malta had been constituted over nine centuries back, making it the oldest humanitarian entity. It now carried out humanitarian work in over 100 countries, maintained embassies in 80 States and was represented in the most relevant international organizations. There were 51 national associations and 60,000 permanent members. The Order maintained strict neutrality; it exercised its sovereign functions from its extra-territorial seat in Rome, and its sovereignty was the guarantee of its independence. It therefore attributed great importance to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which covered all the aspects that needed to be combined to guarantee acknowledgement of the inherent dignity of all human beings and their inalienable rights. It must not be forgotten, however, that many of those objectives were still distant; poverty and malnutrition were still widespread, and nothing seemed to indicate that there would be any improvement in the foreseeable future. Ignorance constituted a type of slavery whose chains were more difficult to break than those of traditional slavery because they were invisible.

53. Every right corresponded to a duty. In the Catholic tradition, the Sovereign Order of Malta affirmed that human rights were divinely created, anteceding any human convention. Over the centuries, the concept of human rights had slowly developed. The past 50 years represented an important advance, and much of the credit went to the United Nations and to national and regional organizations, whose activities not only helped alleviate suffering, but also clarified the way in which society should be organized. From the right to be born to the right to a dignified death, human life must be protected. Yet 50 million children were victims of armed conflict.

54. Dedication and organization were needed. The meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies held in September 1998 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/118 had clearly defined the measures to be adopted so that lasting results could be achieved on a daily basis. The Sovereign Order of Malta expressed its support for the Secretary-General and for the human rights bodies of the United Nations; the United Nations must rise to its responsibilities. The protection of civil rights was a matter that concerned each State within the limits of its respective sovereignty; when a Government was unable or unwilling to accomplish that mission, the responsibility fell on the international community.

55. **Mr. Farhadi** (Afghanistan) noted that, in order to draft his report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (A/53/539), the Special Rapporteur had taken the trouble to travel to many places but had not been allowed to enter Afghanistan. The information in the report about events in Afghanistan was nevertheless both accurate and up to date because, since the report had been drafted, the same sad situation that it described had merely continued. Thus, he expressed full support for the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

56. He noted also that the Special Rapporteur had experienced difficulties as a result of the communal and sectarian violence in neighbouring Pakistan. He felt sure that the Committee had been shocked by the information in the report that the primordial right, the right to life, had been taken away from the very many non-combatants, women and children who had been killed in Afghanistan itself.

57. The politicians and military and security personnel who controlled the Taliban from afar were just as guilty and punishable for crimes against humanity as the mercenaries they sent into Afghanistan. In that connection, he stated that there were some 35,000 armed Pakistanis fighting alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan.

58. He shared the view expressed by the Special Rapporteur in paragraph 7 of his report that the international community could not remain silent regarding the scale of violations in Afghanistan and the suffering of the civilian population. That suffering, resulting from the inhumane policies of the Taliban's mercenaries, was now on such a scale that it required a vigorous international response: the policy of appeasement which the United Nations had pursued towards the Taliban had merely emboldened them. Their ignominious edicts, their crimes against humanity and their pursuit of a retrograde social and political agenda were in total defiance of the wishes of the international community.

59. He expressed the hope that as in previous years the Committee would be able to adopt unanimously a good draft resolution on human rights in Afghanistan and that the draft resolution would have a beneficial impact on the situation in Afghanistan.

Statements in exercise of the right of reply

60. **Ms. Sinegiorgis** (Ethiopia) said that at the 36th meeting the Committee had heard the usual distortions by the representative of Eritrea in his statement. The hue and

cry he had raised served only one purpose: to hoodwink the international community about the blatant aggression by his country against Ethiopia and about the devastating humanitarian consequences of that aggression.

61. The Government of Ethiopia had announced publicly that, as a victim of aggression, it had been forced to take precautionary measures against some Eritrean nationals and clandestine organizations in Ethiopia that were involved in espionage and sabotage to the detriment of Ethiopia's security, defence and economic interests. It had done so to safeguard its vital security interests, particularly in light of the threats uttered by the President of Eritrea, who had bragged that it was not difficult to strike at the heart of Ethiopia or create a sense of insecurity anywhere in that country.

62. The Ethiopian Government had from the outset been transparent and had conducted a thorough investigation into each and every individual suspected of destabilizing activities. The first group included officials and functionaries from the party structure of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF); their dependants, however, had been given the choice of staying in Ethiopia if they so wished. The second group comprised Eritreans who had been engaged in mobilizing resources to finance the Eritrean war of aggression or were involved in spying or other clandestine activities. The third group consisted of former EPLF combatants who had infiltrated Ethiopia, taking advantage of Ethiopia's visa-liberalization policy for the purpose of committing acts of terrorism; those had been temporarily detained as they posed a clear danger.

63. Ethiopia was an open society, and all its activities were monitored by the international community. Thus, on 8 October 1998 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had stated that, in Ethiopia, ICRC had continued its regular visits to all prisoners of war and to civilian internees and that it had ensured safe passage for Eritrean and Ethiopian civilians across the front lines.

64. Contrary to the allegations voiced by the representative of Eritrea, all the actions by the Ethiopian Government, in addition to being transparent, had been conducted in the most humane manner and under independent monitoring. Therefore, his crocodile tears about the expulsion of Eritreans from Ethiopia had been shed not out of genuine concern for the individuals affected. Rather, he had shed tears because the machinations of the Eritrean regime to destabilize Ethiopia had been both revealed and thwarted. It was therefore small wonder that the Eritrean regime was twisting the facts to mislead the Committee by fabricating stories that ran the gamut from racism against Eritreans to confiscation of Eritrean property. Such baseless accusations could be characterized only as malicious prevarications: no property had been confiscated and deportees were given the right to appoint agents to look after their property and interests.

65. The representative of Eritrea had deliberately quoted the Prime Minister of Ethiopia out of context when he claimed that the Prime Minister had said that Ethiopia could deport any foreigner for any reason, including certain physical characteristics. That had been a futile attempt on the part of the representative of Eritrea to misconstrue the Ethiopian Government's policy regarding foreign nationals. As the same distortion of the truth had been echoed on a number of occasions both in the Third Committee and in other forums, it should be rectified once and for all: in answer to questions from journalists about the right of Eritrean nationals to live in Ethiopia, the Prime Minister had explained in detail that, as in any country, foreigners, including Eritrean nationals, lived in Ethiopia with protection for all their rights so long as the Ethiopian Government allowed them to do so. If cases arose that required the expulsion of foreigners who posed a danger to Ethiopia's security, they were dealt with strictly in accordance with the law.

66. With reference to the alleged expulsion of Ethiopians of Eritrean origin, she pointed out that the Ethiopian Government had not expelled its own nationals, nor could it under the Ethiopian Constitution. All those who had been deported had been Eritreans who had opted to become Eritrean citizens in 1993, when Eritrea had become independent.

67. **Mr. Al-Rajihi** (Saudi Arabia) recalled that the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions had said that persons condemned to death in Saudi Arabia were not guaranteed the full right to self-defence. His Government wished to make it clear that its system of capital punishment did indeed guarantee that right by providing for several stages of judicial appeal. Following trial before a court of first instance, the accused could make representations to an appeal court and then to a higher court. No execution could be carried out without the approval of Saudi Arabia's highest authority.

68. The statements made by the representative of Norway and the representative of Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States, had been totally lacking in objectivity. They had drawn on information provided by agencies whose aim was to sully Saudi Arabia's reputation and undermine its international standing, including its relationship with the High Commissioner for

Human Rights, with whom Saudi Arabia had fully cooperated.

69. Saudi Arabia accorded particular importance to religious tolerance, as had been confirmed by the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of religious intolerance in his report (A/52/477, paras. 47 and 48), in which he had thanked the Government of Saudi Arabia for its consistent efforts in that regard.

70. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) said that the European Union had in recent years discovered, late, a vocation as guardian of human rights and giver of lessons by apportioning blame for some and certificates of good conduct for others. It was time, he believed, to remind those new apostles of human rights that — their short memories and overburdened consciences aside — there were some elementary truths that they would be well advised to think about.

71. First and foremost, they should remember that human rights were no one's monopoly: indeed, everyone had human rights and everyone should strive to promote and defend them. How best to do so was surely not through invective and finger-pointing, but rather through dialogue and cooperation.

72. For its part, Algeria had always accepted the principle that human rights were universal, interdependent and indivisible. Thus, although it was standing up by all legal means against the most barbaric forms of terrorism imaginable, it had committed itself to promoting human rights and had resolved to continue to do so with determination so as to root the human rights concept more deeply in its society. Moreover, it had done so not because it had been compelled to or because it wanted to be in some country's or some international body's "good books", but because it was convinced that human rights were an essential part of the democratic culture that it was striving to develop and because the need to promote human rights was the will of the Algerian people.

73. The panel of eminent persons which had come to Algeria in July 1998 had taken note of the significant progress in democratization and in the will of all Algerians to continue the democratization process. He therefore wondered what moral authority the European countries could possibly have for feigning concern about human rights violations when some of them had for decades — even after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which they were now claiming to champion — *maintained* a guilty silence over the most odious crime possible, when they themselves were not committing it, of keeping half of humankind under the colonial yoke, thus depriving them of their most basic rights and looting their resources.

74. Was it not, after all, in those countries that the doctrines of hate, exclusion and racial inequality had been spawned, and was it not there that racism and racial discrimination, the most hideous assaults on human rights and human dignity, were suffered daily by immigrant populations? Was it not there that racists, fascists and neo-Nazis were "cock of the walk", spouting xenophobia and intolerance unpunished?

75. Regarding the European list of "bad boys and teacher's pets", he wondered just how many of the "bad boys" had been let off in the name of political — or purely mercenary — considerations: just how many countries had never held free elections, did not recognize political pluralism and sneered at human rights, and been let off all the same?

76. He commented that the tirade from the representative of Austria — one of the few countries that did not have a human rights committee or league — seemed, when taken in its entirety, to be in sharp contrast to the various statements by the European Union. He noted that Algeria, which had excellent relations with the various human rights bodies, to which it submitted the required human rights reports in the proper manner, believed that nothing justified a visit by any rapporteur for one simple reason among others: each rapporteur in his or her area of competence had brought to Algeria's attention only from one to four cases; and since Algeria had provided all the necessary details on those cases, there was no justification for a field visit.

77. He expressed astonishment that the representative of Austria had not even had the decency to condemn the despicable terrorist crimes that had been committed in Algeria. Of course, where terrorism was involved, hypocrisy and double standards were the order of the day, and for some of Algeria's neighbours to the north indignation was selective: they got upset only when terrorism struck at home, and the only victims of terrorism worth shedding tears for were their own.

78. He counselled the representative of Norway that, instead of pontificating about global human rights, he should see to it that the same rights were respected in his own country. Thus, Norway should submit its reports on time to the various human rights bodies, bring the crime of torture into its penal code, refrain from punishing foreign offenders for the additional crime of being foreign, stop sheltering terrorists and, first and foremost, put an end to the inhumane practice from a bygone age of isolating prisoners on remand before sentencing in the Norwegian human rights "paradise".

79. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) said that there was a need to verify the assertions made by the representative of Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Union, concerning the human rights situation in Iraq in order to ensure that he was not drawing on information provided with a view to damaging the Iraqi regime. His delegation totally refuted the allegations and fabrications which had been made by the Special Rapporteur on Iraq and on which the Austrian representative had drawn in his statement. They were totally unfounded and had been made for political purposes.

80. Iraq continued to fulfil its obligations under the human rights conventions to which it was party and submitted reports in a timely and correct manner. His delegation wondered how the European Union reconciled its apparent concern for human rights with the imposition of a sanctions regime on Iraq which was tantamount to genocide. The representative of Austria should have demonstrated some impartiality by referring to the damaging effects of the sanctions against Iraq, which were a flagrant violation of human rights.

81. The representative of Norway, who had spoken of the murder of religious leaders, should have been present when the Iraqi delegation had provided its response on that matter. The perpetrators had been found, had made a full confession and would soon stand trial for their crimes.

82. **Mr. Mukongo Ngay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the Committee had once again been distracted by defamatory, offensive and deceitful statements by the Rwandan delegation about the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Members of the Committee were aware that since the outset the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had endeavoured to prove that the country was the victim of armed aggression by neighbouring countries. He enquired of the representative of Rwanda, who earlier in the meeting had strenuously denied that his country was involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, what he thought of the statement made a few hours previously in Pretoria by the Vice-President and Minister of Defence of Rwanda, admitting publicly that he had deployed troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and had been doing so since 2 August 1998, the date the so-called rebellion had broken out.

83. The Government of Rwanda therefore wanted the Minister of Defence and his acolytes prosecuted for the massacres, atrocities, violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law which they continued to commit in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

84. Since the aggression had begun, the occupation troops from the Ugandan-Rwandan coalition had expelled from the occupied areas the humanitarian agencies of the United Nations system, which they considered undesirable witnesses to the atrocities committed against the Congolese population. In the occupied provinces large-scale massacres were indeed going on, massacres whose proper title was genocide.

85. As described in detail in document S/1998/1042, the Rwandan and Ugandan aggressors were violating human rights and systematically eliminating Congolese civilians. On 1 September 1998, during a curfew in Bukavu ordered by the occupation authorities so that they could conduct a search for Mai-Mai warriors and loyalist soldiers, over 50 young women had been arrested and taken to a secret location where they had been raped by Rwandan soldiers. The victims had subsequently been admitted to hospital. Those who had resisted being raped had been tortured and others had been subjected to inhuman treatment. During the night of 29/30 September, three villages in Bubembe had been set on fire. On 5 October, 20 people had been killed in Kitundu, Uvira; the next day, 55 Congolese civilians had been killed at Lubarika, and near Bukavu the bodies of 350 Congolese civilians had been thrown into the Rushima River. On 10 October, a Congo Air Lines Boeing 727 aircraft had been shot down shortly after taking off from Kinud airport by a missile launched by armed members of the Rwandan-Ugandan coalition, in defiance of international law applicable in armed conflicts and in violation of the rules governing international civil aviation. By that act of terrorism, the attackers had caused the deaths of 41 civilians, including women and children and four crew members.

86. **Mr. Shamsudin** (Malaysia) expressed regret that the representative of Austria, speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States at the previous meeting, had made certain unfortunate references to Malaysia. In response, he wished to state that in Malaysia the rule of law and respect for human rights, including freedom of speech and freedom of association, were guaranteed under the Constitution.

87. The former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Anwar Ibrahim, had been detained in accordance with the due process of law and faced trial on charges of corrupt practices and sexual misconduct. Regarding the concerns of the European Union about allegations of mistreatment of Mr. Ibrahim, he stated that the Government of Malaysia was also concerned and had ordered a full, impartial investigation. The Government certainly did not condone any mistreatment of any detainee.

88. The Committee could rest assured that the situation in Malaysia was calm. There was no political instability or

social unrest. Indeed, Malaysians themselves were the first to be concerned about the need to maintain peace and security, political stability and social harmony in Malaysia and to respect freedom of speech and of peaceful assembly. The Government had the responsibility of ensuring that those rights were not abused by individuals and firmly believed that the exercise of those rights should be in accordance with the law. Any unlawful exercise, individually or collectively, of those rights would lead to a climate of instability and social unrest, and would not be allowed to happen.

89. **Ms. Pang** (Singapore) said that she was responding to statements made at the previous meeting by the representative of Norway and by the representative of Austria speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States.

90. The Norwegian statement, in referring to the human rights situation in China, had specifically listed the continued use of the death penalty as an issue of particular concern. Also, it had restated the European Union's objective, which was to work towards universal abolition of the death penalty and thereby contribute to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

91. She recalled the joint statement on the question of the death penalty subscribed to by 54 States Members of the United Nations, including Singapore, which had been issued in document E/1998/95 and Add.1; in that statement, those States had disassociated themselves from Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/8, which called for the abolition of capital punishment. She recalled also that, in the joint letter issued in document E/CN.4/1998/156, 51 delegations had expressed their reservations prior to the adoption of the resolution. The previous year, in a joint statement in document E/1997/106, 34 delegations had disassociated themselves from the predecessor to resolution 1998/8, namely resolution 1997/12. The numerical increase from 34 to 51 and then 54 spoke for itself: there was no increasing trend towards the abolition of capital punishment. The Commission on Human Rights resolution calling for abolition had been adopted by a smaller margin in 1998 than in 1997; the voting record therefore showed that not only was there no international consensus on abolition of the death penalty, but support for resolutions calling for abolition had actually declined.

92. As stated in document E/1998/95, capital punishment had often been characterized as a human rights issue in the context of the right of the convicted prisoner to life. However, the 54 States believed that abolition of the death penalty would not necessarily contribute to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights; they believed that the right to life of the convicted person must be weighed against the rights of the victims and the right of the community to live in peace and security. Singapore's own experience showed that retention of capital punishment had safeguarded the interests of society in the maintenance of law and order, which was an important precondition for the preservation of human dignity and enjoyment of other human rights.

93. She reminded the Committee that article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which had been ratified by many European countries, explicitly recognized the right of countries to impose capital punishment for the most serious crimes, pursuant to a final judgement rendered by a competent court and in accordance with internationally recognized safeguards.

94. Her delegation believed that it was highly inappropriate for other delegations to try to impose their values and their justice systems on others. Singapore respected the rights of those States that had decided to abolish capital punishment, and wondered why those States could not respect the sovereign right of other countries to determine the appropriate legal measures and penalties needed to combat serious crime in accordance with internationally recognized safeguards, or the fact that such legal measures and penalties could include the use of capital punishment.

95. Whether or not capital punishment ought to be abolished was clearly a subject on which States must agree to disagree. Her delegation believed that the need for such tolerance of each other's views was underscored by the principle, which lay at the foundation of the United Nations, of the sovereign equality of all States.

96. **Mr. Tekle** (Eritrea) said that just a few examples would serve to expose the falsity of the statement by the representative of Ethiopia. The charges of aggression she had made had already been amply answered before the plenary Assembly, the First Committee and the Third Committee and he would not waste time in repetition.

97. The Ethiopian Government was accusing Eritreans and Ethiopians of Eritrean origin, whose human rights had been systematically violated, of being spies. A representative cross-section of those so-called spies revealed, however, that they were priests, nuns, international civil servants — including staff the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) — teachers, students on exchange scholarship programmes, businessmen, pensioners, physically disabled former army officers who had lost limbs in Ethiopia's inglorious wars against Somalia and Eritrea in

the 1970s and 1980s, a large number of people over 80 and as many infants: hardly the type of people to be spies, a fact attested to by reports from independent third parties.

98. The expulsion of those people had not been carried out in accordance with the rule of law: there had been no due process and no right of appeal; indeed, the Prime Minister of Ethiopia had said that Ethiopia had the right to expel anyone at any time.

99. The odious statement that had been attributed to the President of Eritrea could have been fabricated only by people who had not experienced war: anyone who had read his genuine statements or had met him in person would attest that it was not in his nature to have made the statement in question, and only those who had not suffered in war could attribute such a statement to someone who had so suffered. He challenged the representative to produce even one piece of documentary evidence that the President of Eritrea had made the statement as claimed.

100. The representative of Ethiopia had denied that her Prime Minister had made racist statements. The truth was otherwise.

101. He said that the truth of his own statements was attested to in reports by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and by the Secretary-General, a letter from the Prime Minister of Sweden and statements by Amnesty International. He wondered how anyone could believe that all those individuals and organizations were in the business of hoodwinking the public and falsifying information, and he dared the representative of Ethiopia to respond, because it was time for the Government of Ethiopia to "put up or shut up".

102. He noted that the representatives of Ethiopia seemed to resort to vulgar and abusive language and to defamation when they realized they had a losing case. The representatives of Ethiopia had spared no one and no organization: victims of their verbal abuse included the High Commissioner for Human Rights, heads of United Nations missions and staff of international organizations stationed in Asmara, and non-governmental organizations. The documentary evidence existed, and it was available.

103. **Mr. Ubalijoro** (Rwanda) said that, while he hesitated to "wash the dirty linen" of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in front of the Committee, the representative of that country had been unable to respond to the challenges issued by the delegation of Rwanda to prove that the statements by President Kabila and the leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo about Rwanda were true.

104. His delegation believed the evidence it had before it from reliable sources: on 8 August, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) had monitored a government radio broadcast in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo calling on the local population to use machetes, spears, truncheons, electric irons, stones and the like in order to kill Rwandan Tutsis, and he challenged the representative of the Democratic Republic to prove the BBC wrong. He challenged him also regarding similar broadcasts containing similar propaganda that included statements alleging that every Rwandan Tutsi was an enemy, and urging people to massacre them on sight. He challenged him further with regard to President Kabila's statement on 28 August in front of television cameras: "Rise, go and finish them.". He called on the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to respond to his challenges or forfeit all respect.

105. He repeated an earlier statement that the jungles of the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had become the home of criminal armies that had been causing havoc in the region, which had become ungovernable. The representative of the Democratic Republic was aware of that fact, and knew also that the killings had started after the August radio broadcasts. It was up to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to prove that the broadcasts had not been made by his Government.

106. Rwanda's involvement in the Democratic Republic had arisen because no one could allow his country to be attacked by criminal armies, and he called on all members to examine their consciences and do their utmost to help stop the massacres in the Democratic Republic; the international community should seek out and protect people there, because every day more were being wiped out.

107. **Mr. Beyendeza** (Uganda) said that the problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was an internal matter for which other States bore no responsibility. His Government had sent forces to that country for security reasons, pursuant to a bilateral agreement. However, it was willing to discuss the situation, providing alternative security arrangements were made to protect Uganda's borders and to ensure internal stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He hoped that a solution would be found and that the Democratic Republic would desist from making baseless allegations and statements which sought to place the blame for domestic troubles elsewhere.

108. **Ms. Sinegiorgis** (Ethiopia) said that, in alleging that Ethiopia had expelled "Ethiopians of Eritrean origin", the representative of Eritrea was deliberately attempting to create confusion by taking advantage of the complexity of the situation. She reminded the Committee that the situation

had fundamentally changed when Eritrea had become independent from Ethiopia in 1993. To argue that Eritreans deported to their country were Ethiopian was tantamount to considering that all Eritreans continued to be Ethiopian citizens. The representative of Eritrea himself had not only been an Ethiopian citizen before 1993, but also a senior official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

109. Her Government had at no time deported any of its citizens. Those who had been deported were Eritrean nationals who had willingly opted for Eritrean citizenship after the separation of the two States. Former Ethiopians who chose to become Eritrean citizens were not to be confused with Ethiopians of Eritrean origin.

110. As to the documents cited by the representative of Eritrea, she said that he had tried to deceive the Committee: he had tried to suggest that the report from which he was quoting was only about the human rights situation of Eritreans in Ethiopia, although the main finding of the report was that the areas forcefully occupied by Eritrea were Ethiopian territory and that that constituted the fundamental element of the whole crisis. He had also cited a document published in 1996 by a so-called human rights organization in Ethiopia, a document that had no relevance whatsoever to the issue of Eritreans in Ethiopia.

111. Regarding the request by the representative of Eritrea for concrete evidence on the statement by the President of Eritrea, she advised him to look at the interview published in *The Times* of London on 12 June 1998.

112. **Mr. Mukongoneay** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said he noted that the representative of Rwanda had failed to rise to his challenge. His delegation did not need that representative's respect and felt that Rwanda had no lessons to teach anyone when it came to protection of human rights. The acts of genocide which had occurred in Rwanda were hardly a model for any State.

113. Contrary to the assertions made by the representative of Uganda concerning Ugandan border security, Ugandan troops were to be found some 2,000 miles inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo, close to the Angolan border. Those forces had been responsible for acts of vandalism and aggression against the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The problem was not an internal matter, but one of foreign intervention.

114. **Mr. Tekle** (Eritrea) said that Eritrea had presented documents to refute every single charge made by the representative of Ethiopia. The term "Ethiopian of Eritrean origin" was used at the international level, even by the Secretary-General, when referring to United Nations diplomats. Nothing the Ethiopian representative could say would change that fact. The Ethiopians to whom he had referred had Ethiopian passports, Ethiopian identity papers, paid taxes and lived in Ethiopia. While it was true that he (Mr. Tekle) had been a senior member of the Ethiopian Government, he had been jailed for his membership of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, had been forced to walk out of Ethiopia after having been refused a visa, had spoken on behalf of Eritrea at a number of meetings prior to the settlement and had been a referendum commissioner for Ethiopia. By no stretch of the imagination could it be asserted that he had been an Ethiopian.

115. **Mr. Beyendeza** (Uganda) said that, while it was true that Ugandan forces could be found inside the Democratic Republic of the Congo, they were fighting against terrorists who had once belonged to General Idi Amin's army and who were found in the jungle that stretched to the Angolan border. Once Uganda was convinced that those terrorists would no longer use that area as a base from which to attack it, it would be glad to withdraw from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.